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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05
ACDA-07 IO-13 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /092 W
----------072135Z 057610 /75-61
R 071504Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2991
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1357

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET
SUBJ: ARMING OF ADDIS ABABA BROAD MASSES BEGINS

SUMMARY: IN PROMINENT MAR 5 CEREMONY, PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN LTCOL ATNAFU ABATE PRESENTED ARMS TO 600 WORKERS FROM 20 ORGANIZATIONS IN AND AROUND ADDIS ABABA AND TO REPRESENTATIVES OF 13 URBAN DWELLERS' ASSOCIATIONS (KEBELES). ATNAFU STATED 80 ADDIS ABABA KEBELE DEFENSE SQUADS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ARMED. IN PRESENTATION, ATNAFU REITERATED THAT ARMING OPPRESSED MASSES WOULD ENABLE REVOLUTION TO MOVE FROM DEFENSIVE TO OFFENSIVE POSITION. HE NOTED IT RESPONSIBILITY OF WORKERS AND KEBELE MEMBERS TO SAFEGUARD REVOLUTION, WEED OUT HOSTILE ELEMENTS FROM THEIR MIDST, AND TO "CLEAN THE CITY OF UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS" WHICH ARE INIMICAL TO BASIC INTERESTS OF OPPRESSED MASSES. AT CONCLUSION OF SPEECH ATNAFU REPEATED NOW FAMILIAR PHRASE "DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM, FEUDALISM, BUREAUCRATIC CAPITALISM, ELF, EDU, EPRP, AND CIA." END SUMMARY.

1. IN KEEPING WITH PMAC PROMISES TO ARM WORKERS, KEBELE MEMBERS AND OTHER "PROGRESSIVES" LTCOL ATNAFU ABATE IN MAR 5 CEREMONY AT FORMER PALACE PRESENTED ARMS TO 600 WORKERS FROM 20 ORGANIZATIONS IN AND AROUND ADDIS ABABA AND RE-
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PRESENTATIVES OF 13 KEBELES. DURING PRESENTATION ATNAFU STATED PMAC HAS MET DEMANDS OF ADDIS ABABA KEBELE DEFENSE SQUADS BY PROVIDING THEM ARMS. RELIABLE SOURCE STATED DEFENSE SQUADS COMPRISED OF KEBELE LEADERS, MEMBERS, AND WORKERS FROM EACH RESPECTIVE DISTRICT. SOURCE ADDED PMAC IN PROCESS OF ARMING ALL ADDIS ABABA KEBELE LEADERS, CHIEFLY WITH HANDGUNS, WHILE DEFENSE SQUADS BEING ARMED PRIMARILY

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WITH RIFLES. SOURCES BELIEVE THOSE BEING ARMED NOT RECEIVING ADEQUATE INSTRUCTION IN USE OF WEAPONS, NOR HAVE DIRECTIVES BEEN ISSUED OUTLINING FUNCTIONS OF SQUAD OTHER THAN SELF-DEFENSE.

2. ATNAFU RESTATED ARMING OF BROAD MASSES WOULD ENABLE REVOLUTION TO MOVE FROM DEFENSIVE TO OFFENSIVE POSTURE. HE ADDED COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES BEING CARRIED OUT BY EPRP, EDU, AND ELF IN FULL COLLABORATION WITH IMPERIALISTS APPARENT TO EVERY REVOLUTIONARY. ATNAFU NAMED EPRP AS SPEARHEAD OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY AND ANTI-UNITY CAMPAIGN. IN CALLING FOR PROGRESSIVE FORCES TO WEED OUT HOSTILE ELEMENTS AND "CLEAN THE CITY", ATNAFU EMPHASIZED COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ROLE OF EPRP. (ONOFFICIAL MAR 4 ETHIOPIAN HERALD COLUMN ABIOT FORUM CALLED FOR BUREAUCRACY TO BE DESTROYED IMMEDIATELY AND LISTED MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES WHERE ANTI-REVOLUTIONARIES MOST LIKELY TO BE FOUND. THESE INCLUDED MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ESPECIALLY MEAT BOARD, INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK COOPERATION (SIC), MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, POST AND TELEGRAPH, BANKS AND ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES. ARTICLE ALSO STATED EPRP SPONSORED BY CIA.)

3. ATNAFU CONCLUDED SPEECH BY LINKING CIA TO ELF, EDU, AND EPEP. HE ALSO ASSURED THOSE PRESENT AT CEREMONY ARMING OF MASSES AND PROGRESSIVES WOULD CONTINUE ACCORDING TO GOVT DIRECTIVES. IN RESPONSE TO ATNAFU'S SPEECH, WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES STATED THAT IT NOW RESPONSIBILITY OF ARMED PROGRESSIVE FORCES TO DEMONSTRATE AND PRACTICE AN UNFAILING DEDICATION TO REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE. KEBELE REPRESENTAIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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ADDED ADDIS ABABA REMAINS CENTER OF ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES AND DISSEMINATION OF SUBVERSIVE MATERIALS.
HE ADDED THAT KEBELES HAVE REQUESTED PROVISION OF UP-TO-DATE WEAPONS AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS BETWEEN MEN IN UNIFORM AND KEBELE DEFNSE SQUADS. KEBELE REPRESENTAIVE URGED PROGRESSIVE FORCES OF ETHIOPIA TO PRESENT UNITED FRONT AND CRUSH INSTRUMENTS OF IMPERIALISM.

4. COMMENT: PMAC EFFORTS TO ARM MASSES IN ADDIS ABABA NO DOUBT REFLECTION OF ASSASSINATION CAMPAIGNS IN ADDIS BOTH BEFORE AND SINCE EVENTS OF FEB, AND OF COURSE IS FULFILLMENT OF MENGISTU'S PLEDGE TO DO SO AFTER FEB 3 EVENTS. MANY KEBELE AND LABOR LEADERS HAVE BEEN TARGETED AND KEBELE AND LABOR GROUPS NO DOUBT PUSHING FOR MEANS OF SELF DEFENSE.
IN VIEW LARGE NUMBER OF SUCH OFFICIALS (ADDIS ABABA KEBELE LEADERHIP ALONE APPROX 4,500), AND LACK ADEQUATE TRAINING, POTENTIAL FOR MISCHIEF IS GREAT. IT NOT DIFFICULT TO VISUALIZE INCREASED NUMBER OF ACCIDENTAL AND OTHER SHOOTINGS, ARMED SETTLING OF PRIVATE VENDETTAS, AND FAIR

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NUMBER OF ARMS FALLING INTO HANDS OF OPPOSITION. STATE-
MENTS TO EFFECT THAT CITY TO BE CLEANSED OF UNDESIRABLES
AND CALL TO UPROOT BUREAUCRATIC ANTI-REVOLUTIONARIES RAISES
SPECTER OF ARMED WITCH HUNT. SHOOTING INCIDENTS ARE ALREADY
AT HIGHER LEVEL THAN DURING PERIOD PRIOR TO FEB 3.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Subject: ARMING OF ADDIS ABABA BROAD MASSES BEGINS SUMMARY: IN PROMINENT MAR 5 CEREMONY, PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN L TCO
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MPOL, ET, PMAC, (ATNAFU ABATE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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